

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

The great African-American leader and educator Booker T. Washington once said, "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." Washington's words resonate today, as it's never been more important to help our fellow members of society through community service. In the past few weeks, I've helped rally citizens to volunteer throughout our city and have also honored citizens for their hard work.

On April 11—13, the DC Commission on National and Community Service mobilized nearly 8,000 District youths and their families for National Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world. There were 60 community service projects throughout the District. Youths from all over our city volunteered to clean up school yards, prepare care kits for the homeless, and renovate community centers. Thousands of students in District schools also participated in the "Service Heroes" project for National Youth Service Day. They wrote thank you letters, drew patriotic art, or signed banners of support to show gratitude toward the war veterans in our community.

Countless people of all ages serve their communities in numerous ways, and I wish that we could recognize each and every one of them. Their contributions make the District a better place to live.

On April 30, I recognized the following young people and adults who have received my monthly Community Service Awards over the past year:

Jeremy Drummond, July 2002 Youth Winner

Jeremy led an effort to collect, pack, and deliver 25 dinners to families in need in the District.

Lisa Antoine, November 2002 Youth Winner

Lisa, a ninth grader, has volunteered nearly 200 hours at the American Red Cross, consistently dedicating two days each month to volunteer service.

Amy Hendrick, January 2002 Youth Winner

Amy co-founded a community outreach program for youths in the Barry Farms neighborhood in Ward 8.

Davina Brimmer, February 2003 Youth Winner

Davina, a junior elementary education major at Gallaudet University, helped organize a 30-Hour Famine to raise thousands of dollars to help feed starving children abroad.

Katherine Bloeser, March 2003 Youth Winner

Katherine has worked with young children through the AmeriCorps program with Heads Up.

Ricardo Thornton, July 2002 Adult Winner

Ricardo has been involved in advocacy, self-advocacy, and community service activities on behalf of the disabled community for more than 10 years.

Lynda Mosley, August 2002 Adult Winner

Fifteen years ago, Lynda donated her time and established the Children's Community Bible Study Class in Ward 8.

Dr. Kima Joy Taylor, September 2002 Adult Winner

Kima established a Born-to Read program in 1998, after accepting a position at the Upper Cardozo Health Center.

Doran Flowers, December 2002 Adult Winner

In November of 1997, Doran helped form the all-volunteer group, Turning the Page.

Betty Pierce, January 2003 Adult Winner

Betty, a mother of three and a grandmother of five, is a Ward 6 resident who has committed hundreds of volunteer hours helping to educate District youth.

Ibrahima Mbaye, February 2003 Adult Winner

A native of Senegal, Ibrahima has been a dedicated volunteer for Meridian International Center's International Classroom program for over two years.

Darren Wiggins, March 2003 Adult Winner

Darren's volunteer history ranges from literacy tutoring with jail inmates to volunteering with Food and Friends.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

Historic Regional Meeting with Governors

Call it a regional meeting of the minds. On April 30, I welcomed Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner and Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. to the John A. Wilson Building here in the District. The three of us met to discuss ways in which the jurisdictions can work together to pursue common goals. The meeting, the first for purposes of general discussion involving the elected leaders in these three jurisdictions in at least 12 years, launched a regular series of quarterly meetings to promote regional cooperation. The meeting focused on tourism, homeland security, and clean air/transportation:

Tourism: I led a discussion on marketing the region in a cooperative way to attract tourism and increased convention activity. We agreed to determine major opportunities that the region could pursue, including conventions, sporting events and major awards ceremonies. You can't do business in this country without coming to the region, and you can't know the United States without visiting the region. Our job is to collaborate on major events where our collective bid will be stronger than the bid from just one jurisdiction.

Homeland Security: Governor Ehrlich provided an update on the region's continuing efforts to protect residents and tourists from terrorism. The governments of Maryland, Virginia, and the District are currently working with US Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to implement a National Capital Region Homeland Security Plan.

Clean Air/Transportation: Governor Warner discussed the transportation challenges facing the region, and the potential impact on air quality. We directed our respective transportation and natural resource officials to work together to complete and implement an achievable plan for clean air and increased mobility in the region, including enhanced incident management capabilities. The Environmental Protection Agency recently reclassified the region's air quality problems from 'serious' to 'severe'. We agreed that it's imperative that we continue to cooperate as a region to reduce all sources of ozone pollution.

I look forward to meeting with the governors again soon. Recently, we've shown progress on working together as a region. We have already cooperated on efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, along with emergency responses in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terror attack on the Pentagon; the subsequent anthrax incidents; and last fall's investigation into the series of sniper attacks.



Mayor Williams with Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner

Community Profile

Judge Mary A. Gooden Terrell

In March, the DC Chapter of the American Mothers, Inc. named Judge Mary A. Gooden Terrell, Associate Judge of the DC Superior Court, DC Mother of the Year for 2003. Since 1935, American Mothers, a nonprofit and interfaith organization, has conducted an annual search for the state and national mother of the year. A jury selected by the association reviews the state portfolios and selects one mother who will best represent all mothers as the Mother of the Year. She then represents her association at the National Convention. Judge Terrell will be the District's representative this year.



Judge Mary A. Gooden Terrell

Judge Terrell has three children: Angela Rani Terrell Heath, producer for *Nightly Business Report*; Mariessa Rebecca Terrell White, attorney and president of SB Corporation; and James Stephen Terrell, artist. Judge Terrell was selected because of her dedication to motherhood and living and teaching her children about qualities such as love, service, understanding, and compassion. "Nurturing my children, ensuring that they had self-esteem and an appreciation of their heritage, and preparing them through education and religious teachings to successfully navigate their careers are my greatest achievements," said Judge Terrell. "A career and family are not mutually exclusive; the family must be first."

Judge Terrell was nominated to the DC Superior Court by President William Jefferson Clinton and confirmed by the US Senate in 1997. While navigating an outstanding career, she has successfully reared her three accomplished children and maintained her marriage of 35 years to Rev. Dr. James E. Terrell, pastor of the historic Second Baptist Church. Additionally, her career includes serving as executive assistant to a DC Council chair; assistant US Attorney for the District of Columbia; and Legal Director of the Resolution Trust Corporation, Minority and Women Outreach Program. Judge Terrell received her JD from Georgetown Law Center, her MAT from Antioch College, and her BA from Howard University.

A founder of the Dix Street Academy, an alternative school for students who have dropped out of public schools, Judge Terrell also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in India. Furthermore, she is the founder of the High Tea Society, a nonprofit mentoring organization, which was created to provide educational and cultural enrichment for inner city girls, aged 12-18, from economically disadvantaged areas who attend DC public schools.



LINK TO OTHER
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Anacostia River Vision and Earth Day Cleanup

On April 26, I participated in the 10th Annual Earth Day Cleanup. In partnership with the Seafarers Yacht Club and the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), several other local leaders and I started the day with an enlightening tour of the Anacostia River, to observe many of our dedicated citizens groups at work.

The Anacostia Watershed Society has been organizing Earth Day cleanups alongside the Seafarers Yacht Club for the past decade. Their efforts reflect the cultural and regional diversity of supporters of the Anacostia watershed. The AWS was the first non-government organization to be active on the river and in the community advocating for restoration and cleanup. AWS employs educators who work in DC public schools. It helps bring many of our students out to the river for restoration of wetlands, educational canoe programs, water quality monitoring, and tree planting.

Our spectacular trip down the Anacostia River concluded with a rally at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. At the rally, I was honored to present both my vision for a fully restored Anacostia River and awards to three of our public school students who are the local winners of the River of Words Poetry Contest.

The Anacostia River is often thought of as a District of Columbia river, but more than half of the river is in Maryland's Prince George's and Montgomery counties. That's why I believe it's vital that we work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to restore this valuable resource. This regional Earth Day was very important because it allowed us to erase the jurisdictional boundaries, if only for one day. This is the only way that we will truly restore this river.

It was exciting to see so many citizens taking part in the river restoration. Clean up of the river improves the self-esteem of the people in our community and the quality of life of everyone in the river's watershed. While on the river, I imagined how it would look when our work is finally done. I see a haven for swimming and hiking, a habitat for bald eagles and catfish.

I see a river that was once a national embarrassment becoming a national treasure. We are building the foundation to restore the health of the Anacostia.

Arbor Day with Casey Trees

On April 26, I helped celebrate Arbor Day by paying tribute to the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, which has been a huge asset to our city. Last summer, Casey Trees conducted a city tree count with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, students, and interns. At the event, we also planted 23 large elm trees along G Street, SE, near Minnesota Avenue, and announced a joint commitment to plant every one of approximately 23,000 empty street tree spaces found in the District.

I am deeply committed to restoring the green canopy of trees in the District. Since the completion of the Casey street tree inventory on August 15, 2002, our District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry Administration has used this important data to manage its day-to-day operations. It's also using the inventory to develop long-term plans for the District's street trees.

Over the past eight months, the District has removed 1,140 dead trees, reducing the backlog to about 2,000 dead trees. During the recent tree-planting season from October 2002 to April 2003, we planted 3,000 trees. That increases the total number of street trees to about 109,000.

In past years, the District of Columbia was certified as a "Tree City USA" city, but over the past few years we have lost that status. At the Arbor Day event, I pledged to continue our tireless efforts to return Washington, DC to its former "green" glory. We will continue to expand our focus and concern for the city's green infrastructure. Together we will plant, maintain, and preserve our trees. Now, we are in the process of applying for re-certification as a "Tree City USA" city.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Today, little by little, we're helping re-create the magic of the District of Columbia—through trees.



District Activities



Mayor Williams joined local students at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Northeast, where they expressed appreciation to District veterans for the contributions they made to our country.



At his weekly press briefing, Mayor Williams recognized adult learners as he announced progress on his literacy initiative.



Mayor Williams and Deborah Gist, director of the DC Commission on National and Community Service, presented Community Service Awards to outstanding young people and adults.



On May 1, Mayor Williams and community leaders cut the ribbon at La Clínica del Pueblo's new location on 15th Street, NW, where it provides free health services to the community.

Community News

- [Mayor Williams' Statement Regarding School Choice Initiatives](#)
- [Sherryl Hobbs Newman Is New Secretary of the District of Columbia](#)
- [City Announces Settlement with H&R Block Services](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

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| 05/10 | Crime Forum II
8:30 am—1 pm
Scripture Cathedral
810 O Street, NW |
| 05/13 | Townhall Hall Meeting with Asian and Pacific Islander Community
6—8:30 pm
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
9th and G Streets, NW |
| 05/13 | DC Golden Olympics Competitions
For more information call DC Parks and Recreation at (202) 282-0753. |
| 05/14 | Public Workshop on DC Bicycle Master Plan
7—9 pm
Savoy Elementary School
2400 Shannon Place, SE (near Anacostia Metro Station) |
| 05/15 | Public Workshop on DC Bicycle Master Plan
7—9 pm
Marshall Heights Community Development Organization
3939 Benning Road, NE |

[View the Mayor's daily schedule](#)

